

From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

It's been more than four months since floodwaters receded from the December flooding. Unfortunately, many communities are still dealing with a long and difficult recovery. That's why we're pleased the U.S. Small Business Administration recently approved Gov. Rauner's request for a declaration to help people and businesses in Christian and Iroquois counties (and counties contiguous to each). The state also has appealed FEMA's denial of federal assistance to help local governments in 17 counties with some of their disaster-related expenses. We hope to hear soon on this appeal.

Flood resiliency was the topic of a presentation by state Sen. Sue Rezin at the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Mid-Year Forum in Alexandria, Virginia, during the first week of April. Sen. Rezin's presentation on a model for regional flood resiliency that has been implemented in her district received considerable interest from state emergency management personnel across the nation, and you can learn more about this initiative in this issue.

While in the D.C. area, I also had the opportunity to meet with members and staff from Illinois' congressional delegation. In addition to thanking them for their continuing support of our efforts to secure federal assistance for communities hard-hit by the December flooding, I outlined the devastating effects proposed cuts in the federal fiscal year 2017 budget would have on emergency management and homeland security programs in Illinois and urged their support in restoring this critical funding.

On April 9, a community's continuing recovery from an EF-4 tornado one year ago was recognized during a solemn observation in Fairdale. While the tornado claimed two lives and destroyed many homes, the event proved the storm hasn't destroyed the spirit or determination of the people of Fairdale and the surrounding communities. I attended the event with Gov. Rauner and left with a renewed respect for the power of the human spirit and a fresh resolve to continue our efforts to help communities during their darkest hours.



Director Joseph and Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker met with Sen. Mark Kirk while in Washington, D.C. for the NEMA conference.

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NRC Presents Core Damage Assessment Training

Two dozen IEMA nuclear safety staff members recently received training from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on a new tool that will enhance the state's ability to protect people in the event of a nuclear power plant accident.

Staff from the NRC's headquarters presented the eight-hour training to the agency's Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) managers, reactor specialists, resident inspectors and health physicists. The classroom training and workshop exercises focused on predicting, recognizing, confirming and initially assessing the extent of reactor core damage during a nuclear power plant emergency.

The Response Technical Tools computer program, under development by the NRC, will help IEMA reactor

analysis personnel determine the integrity of the three nuclear fuel barriers that prevent a radiological release. That information will enable the agency to better predict the potential for a radioactive release and enhance the state's ability to make protective action recommendations for people living and working in the area.

Real-life radiological release examples from the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi accident were incorporated into the training.

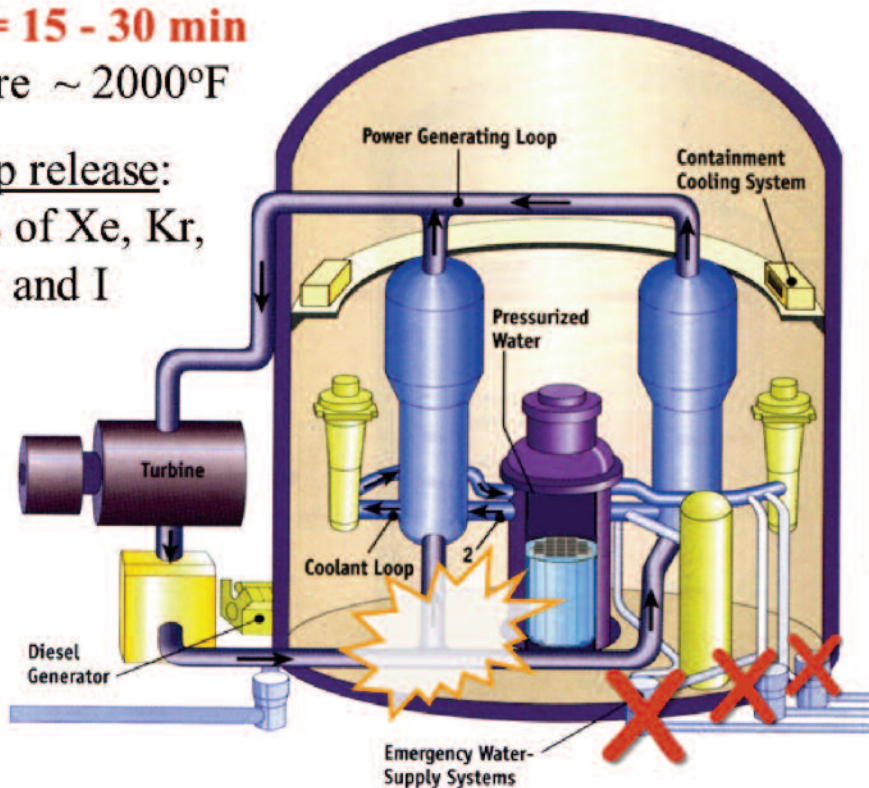
Prior to this tool, IEMA staff referred to the NRC's Response Technical Manual, Exelon's CDAM program and Reactor Data Link information for assessments of reactor core barrier integrity. The new tool will offer a more thorough assessment to provide more accurate information for decision making.

A Severe Accident Scenario

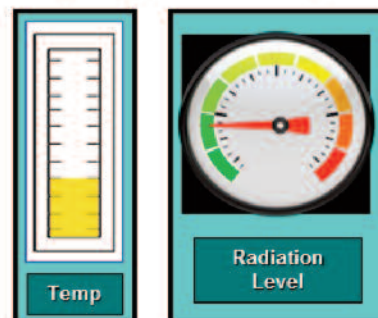
T = 15 - 30 min

Core ~ 2000°F

Gap release:
5% of Xe, Kr,
Cs, and I



Step 4 Fuel Rod Failure (Gap Release)



Flood Response Offers Several ‘Lessons Learned’

Every disaster presents opportunities for emergency management officials to evaluate processes and incorporate “lessons learned” into existing plans and procedures in order to improve future efforts. IEMA personnel recently reviewed impact information that was provided in response to the December flooding event and subsequent process state and local emergency management officials utilized to assess the damages to homes, businesses and local governments and developed the following recommendations.

Local EMAs, officials and damage assessment teams should start developing the Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) form immediately following an event. It is imperative to document impact information as soon as possible after an event. Information reported on the DIA form, which is an essential component of the federal request letter, should include facts beyond what is listed in the state and local situational briefings. For example, officials should consider the systemic impacts of a road closure, such as inability of individuals to get to work, loss of commerce, etc.

The IEMA Disaster Assistance Process course provides an excellent overview of the process for conducting both Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) Initial Damage Assessments (IDA). Officials are highly encouraged to annually attend this course, which provides an excellent overview of key foundational terminology and processes that state and local officials must employ to effectively collect impacts and data for subsequent damage assessments. This course is routinely presented by IEMA throughout the state. Please consult the IEMA website for location of the next Disaster Assistance Process course.

IEMA needs to conduct regular “hands on” training sessions through the regions on the use of the IA and PA Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) forms. In discussions with the IEMA regional coordinators, it was recommended that exercises or workshops on use of disaster assistance forms become a regular component of IEMA regional meetings and annual IEMA Training Summit. IEMA staff currently are working on a curriculum to be used for the “hands on” session.

Local officials need to ensure the timeliness, accuracy and completeness of IDA forms before

submission to IEMA. Incomplete and mislabeled information slows down the Individual and Public Assistance IDA process dramatically. Often, these reports are returned for additional information, which significantly slows down the ability of the state of Illinois to determine the true extent of damages. Capturing the information in a spreadsheet, as opposed to hand-written documents, utilizing standard criteria, will aid in classifying and sorting data in correlation with the levels of damage used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Updates can also be added to the spreadsheet and transmitted to IEMA more efficiently.

Officials need to have available records that verify the pre-disaster condition of infrastructure impacted by a disaster. FEMA requires thorough records to verify a critical infrastructure, street or road has been properly maintained prior to the disaster. The failure to do so will prevent FEMA from determining the true pre-disaster condition. Although FEMA currently doesn’t have a formal standard on what constitutes sufficient documentation, any visual evidence that shows the pre-disaster condition is helpful during the preliminary damage assessment process. Also, maintenance records that indicate some oversight of the road or infrastructure had been conducted are essential in order for FEMA to determine if the system had been damaged as a result of the disaster and not general neglect of the community.

Officials must have documentation that supports all costs requested prior to the PDA. There must be some documented rationale for the determination of costs listed in the IDA for Public Assistance. Unsubstantiated costs won’t be considered by FEMA during the PDA process. Governmental organizations should ensure that documentation is thorough and in good order prior to the PDA.

IEMA needs to update the IA IDA forms to ensure greater standardization of information and make it web-accessible. IEMA program and information technology staffs currently are developing an online system to collect PA IDA information. The pilot of the system was used during the most recent incident. Further work is being implemented to address comments during the pilot phase. Program staff also are reviewing neighboring state IA IDA applications to see if a remote technology solution is available for this program.

State Continues to Seek Federal Flood Assistance

People and businesses affected by the December floods in Christian, Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Macon, Montgomery, Sangamon, Shelby and Vermilion counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest, long-term loans thanks to approval of Governor Bruce Rauner's request for assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration on April 14.

The SBA declaration was requested after minimal additional damage to homes and businesses was reported by flood-impacted counties following FEMA's denial of federal Individual Assistance in March. Christian and Iroquois counties met the SBA requirement of more than 25 homes and/or businesses that sustained major damage that is at least 40 percent uninsured. The seven Illinois counties contiguous to Christian and Iroquois are included in the declaration.

The state continues its efforts to secure federal assistance for local governments severely impacted by the floods. On April 8, Governor Bruce Rauner submitted an appeal to FEMA's denial of Illinois' request for federal assistance to help local governments.

The appeal included nearly \$1.8 million in additional qualifying costs and spelled out additional factors that justify Illinois' request for federal assistance for local governments in Alexander, Bureau, Calhoun, Cass, Clark, Cumberland, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Randolph, St. Clair and Vermilion counties.

The appeal followed a second Preliminary Damage Assessment by IEMA and FEMA in several of the affected counties that had flood-related local government expenses discovered after the initial state request for assistance had been sent. With the additional \$1.8 million, total disaster-related local government expenses reached nearly \$16.8 million.

The state's appeal also notes severe localized impacts should be taken into consideration, such as per capita damage costs of \$486 in Alexander County, well above the required county per capita of \$3.57. The appeal also cites the effects of recent disasters in eight of the 17 counties, as well as the state's nationally recognized mitigation and floodplain management efforts that significantly reduced costly impacts in many areas of the state.

Update on Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), enacted in 2014, is intended to increase accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds and reduce administrative burdens on both state agencies and subgrantees through uniform administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal and federal pass-through awards.

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU) currently is developing a pre-qualifications portal that all subgrantees will be required to use to pre-qualify prior to receiving any awards in Illinois. The portal will house two sets of information: a standard set of jurisdiction or organization-specific questions, such as current FEIN, SAMS and DUNS numbers, and the pre-qualification process that will assess administrative and financial risk based on past grant management history, the organization's standing with the Illinois Secretary of State and whether the

jurisdiction or organization appears on any debarred or suspended lists.

In addition, the portal will cross-check grant awards the jurisdiction or organization has received from other state agencies. Placement on the "Illinois Stop Payment List" may prevent a jurisdiction from being pre-qualified for emergency management grants until remediation has been completed.

Phil Anello, IEMA Chief Accountability Officer, will provide additional information on these new processes in the near future. Webinar training for state and subgrantee managers will also be offered. Participation in this training is strongly suggested. Additional information about GATA is available at www.Illinois.gov/gov/budget/Pages/Implementation.aspx or by contacting Anello at 217-785-9890 or at phil.anello@illinois.gov.

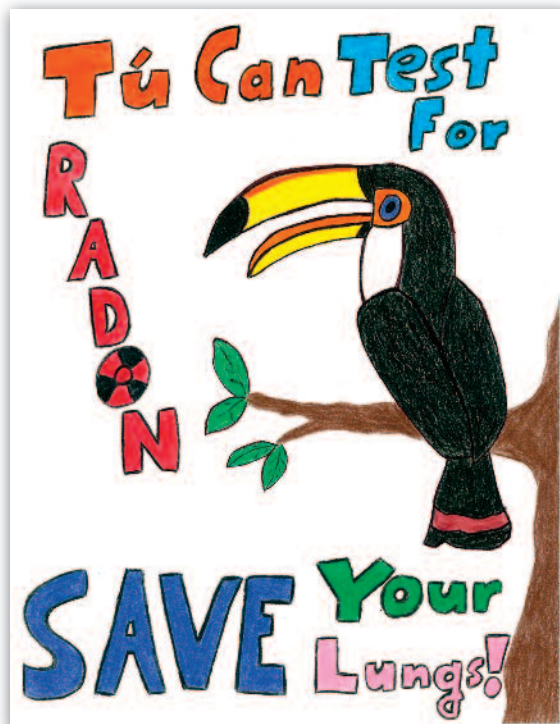
Radon Poster, Video Contest 2016 Winners Selected

Every year, the IEMA Radon Program collaborates with the American Lung Association in Illinois on poster and video contests for Illinois students. The contests help spread the message about radon's health risks and the importance of testing homes for the radioactive gas. More than 500 posters and 65 videos were submitted for judging in this year's contest.

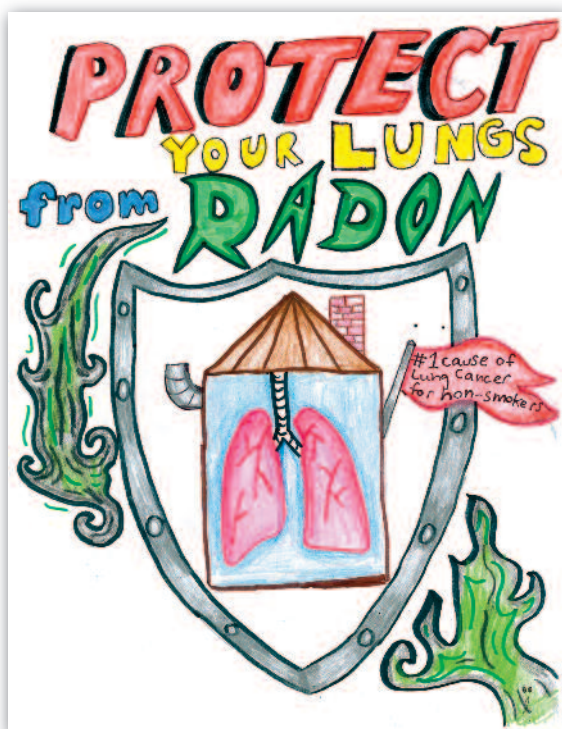
The poster contest was open to students ages 9-14. The three winning posters (shown here) will compete against posters from across the country in the 2017 National Radon Poster Contest sponsored by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors.

First, second and third place high school video contest winners were selected, along with seven honorable mention winners. The 10 top videos also competed in a "most views" contest in which the students promoted viewership of their videos through social media.

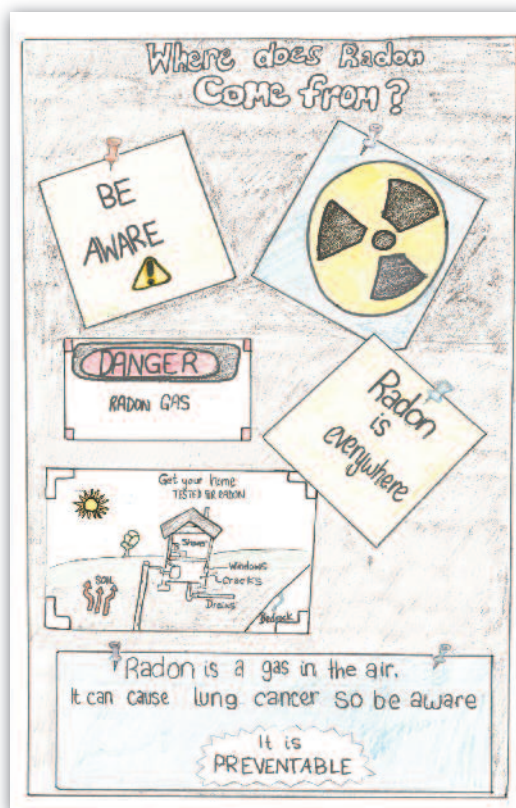
The winning entries are available on the IEMA Radon website at www.radon.illinois.gov.



First place poster by Levi Moore of Vienna.



Second place poster by Michael Sweeney of Evanston.



Third place poster by Kayla Conklin of Farmington.

Flood Resiliency Alliance featured at NEMA

A unique community initiative for addressing flood issues in a four-county area along the Illinois River was recently featured at the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) conference in Alexandria, Virginia.

State Sen. Sue Rezin of Peru shared insight into the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance (IVFRA), which was established in 2013 after widespread flooding resulted in nearly 50 Illinois counties receiving federal disaster assistance. The alliance brings together local government officials, agency representatives and emergency personnel from LaSalle, Grundy, Bureau and Putnam counties to consider flood issues from a regional perspective.

The group conducts quarterly meetings to discuss grant opportunities and learn about new flood-fighting techniques and materials, as well as examine additional ways the region can work together to minimize flood losses.

The IVFRA has spurred the certification of 24 new floodplain managers, and some member towns have passed and begun enforcing floodplain management standards, such as prohibiting building in floodplains.

Recognizing the unique nature of the alliance, IEMA Director James K. Joseph recruited Sen. Rezin to speak at the NEMA conference so she could share this “best practice” with state emergency management directors and their staffs from across the nation.



Ron Davis, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, discussed potential mitigation project funding opportunities during a meeting of the IVFRA on April 4.

Joseph said the session was well-attended and sparked considerable interest from representatives from other states.

“This is a great example of how a fresh approach to an age-old problem can reap huge benefits,” said Joseph. “I encourage communities throughout the state that face flood risks to seriously consider uniting to implement similar actions.”

IEMA Welcomes New Senior Staff

IEMA recently welcomed four senior staff members to the agency. Pictured here are Sarah Plinski, Assistant to the Director; Brett Cox, Chief Fiscal Officer; Donovan Borvan, Chief Legal Counsel; and Sreekumar Govindan, Chief Information Officer.



PIO Groups Offer Support, Education Opportunities

When an EF 4 tornado ravaged the city of Washington on Nov. 17, 2013, the need for fast, accurate public information was immense. With media from across the country quickly descending on the devastated city and thousands of residents struggling to deal with the widespread damage, a regional group of public information officers (PIOs) sprang into action to provide the much-needed information.

Members of the Central Illinois Public Information Officers (CIPIO) group established and maintained a Joint Information Center (JIC) for five days following the tornado. Members churned out press releases, organized press conferences, posted messages on social media, monitored media coverage and more in order to get critical information to those affected.

The group was created in 2007 in the five-county area encompassing Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall and Stark counties. It started with PIOs from local emergency response agencies and gradually grew to include communications professional from area facilities that could experience a disaster as well as private businesses with personnel who had skill sets the groups could use, such as marketing.

CIPIO conducts quarterly meetings where members hear presentations on timely topics, network with fellow communicators and review their mission. The group's April meeting will include a tabletop exercise on civil unrest.

The group maintains a presence even during non-disaster times through a Facebook page (www.fb.com/CIEmergencyInfo) with more than 14,000 followers and the group's Twitter page (www.twitter.com/CIEmergencyInfo), both of which are administered by five CIPIO members. For the 2015 PrepareAthon, the group conducted a "tweet-a-thon," in which members highlighted various local response organizations.

Jenny Fulton, CIPIO Chair and Director of Strategic Communications for Peoria County Government, encourages other regions of the state to consider developing a PIO group. Fulton said she would be happy to share the group's Crisis Communications Plan and PIO Manual with anyone interested in starting a similar group. She can be contacted at JFulton@peoriacounty.org.



CIPIO members organized and publicized this public meeting, where Washington residents received information about tornado recovery efforts.

A CIPIO initiative that resulted in the identification of 105 potential Joint Information Center locations in the five-county region was recognized by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School with its prestigious Bright Ideas award.

In the northeastern part of the state, another group of PIOs meets six times a year for a networking roundtable, discussions on best practices and to hear from guest speakers on relevant issues. The Northeast Illinois PIO Association grew from a discussion a couple of years ago among several PIOs to today's group of about 100 representatives from approximately 70 agencies.

John Nebl, PIO for DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, says the group enables participants to grow professionally and network with others who deal with many of the same challenges. As a result of the meetings, about 25 members have established agreements to assist each other during disasters.

The Northeast PIO Association isn't established as formally as the CIPIO, but recently hosted Jenny Fulton for a presentation about CIPIO.

Nebl is also working to establish a DuPage-centered PIO group similar to the CIPIO model. He contacted PIOs at police, fire and other departments and is planning an organizational meeting and assessment of existing PIO capabilities in the county this spring.

Drill Demonstrates Response Plans for Nuclear Plant Incident

The response plans for each of the six nuclear power plants in Illinois must be demonstrated through a FEMA-graded exercise every two years. On April 6, the state of Illinois, Exelon and counties around the Braidwood nuclear power plant successfully demonstrated plans designed to keep people living and working near the facility safe in the event of an accident.

More than 100 people from various agencies and organizations participated in the full-scale exercise at several venues, including the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, IEMA's communications center, the Joint Information Center, the Unified Area Command, the Radiological Assessment Field Team, IEMA's Mobile Radiochemistry Laboratory, emergency operations centers in Grundy, Kankakee and Will counties, the utility's Technical Support Center and Emergency Operations Facility, the Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team and the Illinois National Guard.

While FEMA's draft report on the exercise won't be available for review for a few more weeks, FEMA provided a preliminary overview of its assessment at a meeting two days after the drill. In addition to noting that all participants handled the challenging scenario well, FEMA evaluators noted two strengths by IEMA,



Members of IEMA's Radiological Assessment Field Team collected environmental samples for laboratory testing during the drill.

including SEOC Manager Paul Rasch's calm and controlled manner in managing the hectic response center. FEMA also noted exceptional performance by IEMA's communications center, which, despite short staffing, worked well together to ensure tasks were completed in a timely manner.

The next nuclear power plant exercise will be a partial-scale exercise for the LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant on July 20.



2016 IEMA Training Summit

**Vendor registration is now open.
Register now to get early pricing deals on
vendor booths before July 1.**

www.Ready.Illinois.gov



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For more information on this newsletter, contact:

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